

II. Implementation

The Disaster and Emergency Services Division hereafter referred to, as “MT-DES” is the statutorily assigned agency for notification of reportable hazardous materials incidents as established by 10-3-1211 MCA and Title III of the SARA. This enables MT-DES, to maintain a database of incidents. Reporting hazardous materials incidents to MT-DES also fulfills state reporting requirements as established by 10-3-1211 MCA and Title III of the SARA.

The decision to initiate the request for assistance provided in this plan shall be made by the local Incident Commander according to procedures outlined in their local emergency operations plan, when it is determined that a hazardous material is involved in quantities or conditions exist that may pose an immediate hazard to public health and/or the environment, or when the IC is seeking technical advice or assistance. The plan is initiated by calling MT-DES, at 406-841-3911. MT-DES will notify the appropriate response and support agencies, when requested to do so by the IC.

Summary

Implementation of the Montana Hazardous Materials Response Plan includes creation of a single specially trained and equipped team for hazardous material incident response. The state-wide response SHMIRT is a cooperative effort of regionally located response teams, designated officials of state agencies, and the SERC. The SHMIRT members are strategically located around the state. Each of these regional teams will consist of hazardous materials emergency response personnel with specialized equipment specific to hazardous materials response. The regional teams, when activated, will operate under the direction of the team leader and within NIMS. The teams are intended to respond to the most acute and critical hazardous emergencies in the state. Their primary objective is to protect human life, the environment, and property during the early stages of an emergency. While there is an expectation from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the MT-DES State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) that the regional teams comprising the SHMIRT will respond when requested, there is also an understanding that there may be local circumstances that may prevail and prevent them from responding or subject for recall to their home station. In order to accomplish this, the regional teams must remain under local administrative control and not as a state resource.